



CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL

FACT SHEET: ELECTRIC VEHICLES INITIATIVE

At the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. on July 19th and 20th, ministers reaffirmed their commitment to previously-announced targets for the deployment of electric vehicles, which the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates will create global market momentum leading to at least 20 million electric vehicles on the road worldwide by 2020. In support of those targets, the ministers are launching the Electric Vehicles Initiative (EVI), which will provide a forum for global cooperation on the development and deployment of electric vehicles. Participating countries agree to:

1. Launch a pilot cities program to promote electric vehicles demonstrations in urban areas;
2. Share information, as appropriate, on funding levels and other features of research and development programs on electric vehicle technologies to ensure their collective investments are strategically addressing the most crucial global gaps in vehicle technology development; and,
3. Share information, as appropriate, on electric vehicle deployment targets, as well as best practices and policies, to enable progress toward those targets.

Electric vehicles have become a strategic focus of the automotive industry during recent years, but the technology is still nascent in the global marketplace. EVI is a government-led global initiative that will collaborate with relevant industry, academic, and end-user stakeholders to dramatically scale-up electric vehicle sales.

Electric Vehicles Pilot Cities

In recognition of the fact that governments can play a critical role as a testing ground for electric vehicles and their corresponding infrastructure, participating countries will establish pilot projects in several cities for the demonstration of electric vehicles in public transportation and government use. Participating countries may also share experiences from existing pilot projects. The specific technologies that will be the focus of the pilots may include hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), all-electric vehicles (AEVs), and fuel cell vehicles (FCVs).

Each participating government will share experiences from at least one of its cities that pilots electric vehicles in the public transportation sector or in government fleets. In addition, those governments will share relevant information and data from the pilot with participating governments, manufacturers of automobiles and associated parts, power plants, and research institutes, and seek active engagement from the private sector. The primary objectives of the pilot are:

1. Promoting cooperation on the research and development, demonstration, and commercialization of electric vehicles;
2. Sharing experience in policy, management, data analysis, and publicity, etc. to support the scale-up of electric vehicles;
3. Exploring universal standards for vehicle evaluation, infrastructure, and communication protocols; and,

4. Conducting analyses of the demonstrations, including cost-effectiveness assessments.

To lead off the effort, China is organizing an International Forum on Electric Vehicle Demonstration Cities, as well as building a “demonstration zone” in one of its pilot cities as a platform for the pilot.

Strategic Public Investment in Electric Vehicle Innovation

Innovation in electric vehicle systems will be crucial to deploying these technologies on a large scale. In its December 2009 *Global Gaps in Clean Energy RD&D* report, IEA identified electric vehicles as the clean energy category for which the gap between innovation needs and public research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) investment is most severe. In this context, Ministers participating in EVI will share information on public investment levels in RD&D for electric vehicles in order to maximize the innovation benefits from scarce RD&D investment. Ministers will also look for opportunities for strategic RD&D cooperation to spur progress in the global electric vehicles industry through, for example, focusing on the most critical global gaps and encouraging joint research where appropriate. These efforts will help catalyze the technological innovation that will be critical to achieving participating countries’ deployment targets.

Information Sharing on Targets and Best Practices

As sales and production targets for electric vehicles are established and pursued, it will be helpful for governments to work together (involving the private sector and other stakeholders as appropriate) in order to learn from others’ successes and failures, as well as to address universal issues that affect the deployment of electric vehicles. For example, sharing information on targets may help governments to understand how their plans relate to those of other countries, which will help them to anticipate, and thereby hopefully avoid, supply-side shortages. In addition, there is also the need for a dialogue on the interconnection of electric vehicles, which would likely involve reaching out to the International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN), which was also launched at the Clean Energy Ministerial. More generally, EVI will lead an ongoing and structured dialogue to enable countries to identify and adopt best-practice deployment policies and programs that help them to cost effectively reach their own respective targets.

Structure for EVI

EVI will be a forum for high-level government dialog on the development and deployment of vehicles that diversify the fuel mix in the transportation sector to improve energy security while reducing pollution. The initiative will be implemented and coordinated through an Advisory Group with representatives from each participating country, as well as from the IEA. EVI will explore opportunities to build upon existing international initiatives.

EVI commenced at the Clean Energy Ministerial in Washington, D.C. Participating countries pledged to continue discussions through high-level roundtables organized by the IEA during the Paris Motor Show in Fall 2010 and the Shanghai Motor Show in Spring 2011.

Participants as of July 23, 2010

Participating governments include China, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. Other initial partners include the International Energy Agency.